

MAN ACCUSED OF FORCING TEEN INTO PROSTITUTION

A teenage runaway, who described to police the horrors of being held captive and forced into prostitution by a man who befriended her, is safe. Her captor is behind bars, police said.

The victim, who had been living with friends, told police that she met **Mackenley Desir**, 28, of Boynton Beach, who asked her to move in with him.

On Friday, police arrested **Desir** after a short chase.

The victim, who police would only say was in her late teens, outlined weeks of captivity during which she was forced to have sex with about a half-dozen men who paid **Desir** between \$50 and \$100 each.

Residents of the 2300 block of Southeast Third Street where **Desir** lived said they noticed a lot of police activity days before Friday's arrest.

The victim's ordeal lasted a few weeks during which **Desir** physically and sexually abused her, and put a gun to her head threatening to kill her, according to police.

She escaped Dec. 7 after **Desir** left for work and found someone at a local store who gave her money to call police, spokesman Lt. Jeff Katz said.

Police, going on what the victim told them, got a search warrant and found what they describe as "the very distinctive handgun" that the victim said **Desir** had put to her head, along with a stash of both prescription and illegal drugs.

Desir, who also goes by the name Marc Johnson, has six previous arrests with charges ranging from battery to drug offenses, according to FDLE records. However, in most cases adjudication was withheld.

Desir was taken to the Palm Beach County Jail and charged with aggravated child abuse, unlawful sexual activity with a minor, aggravated assault with a firearm and forcing the victim into prostitution.

~susan_miller@pbpost.com